

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 4, 2005**

1. **Community Center State Funds (Citywide):** Community Center likely will receive State funds. As the Maryland Legislature's 2005 Session nears an end, it appears that the Takoma Park Community Center will receive \$350,000 in State bond bill funds. This grant is due to the hard work of our District 20 team, Senator Ida Ruben who secured \$100,000 and Delegates Peter Franchot, Shiela Hixson and Gareth Murray who secured \$250,000. Final voting on the State budget is still to come, but we are in a good position to say, "THANK YOU" for our representatives' strong support for the Takoma Park Community Center. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

2. **Parks & Recreation Proposed Capital Budget (Citywide):** City of Takoma Park testimony was provided to a joint public forum on the proposed capital budget for County parks and recreation facilities. Councilmembers Joy Austin-Lane and Heather Mizeur presented the City's testimony and Councilmember Terry Seamens spoke on behalf of the Pinecrest Citizens' Association. The City asked for park improvements to Takoma Urban Park (gazebo park in Old Town), Takoma-Piney Branch Park (including funding for a skate park) and Becca Lilly Park; for road and pedestrian safety improvements to Sligo Creek Parkway; for the Cherry Avenue Connector to Sligo Creek; and for development of a park on Orchard Avenue in the Pinecrest Neighborhood. The City also asked for a return of trash cans to all County parks in our community, a higher level of maintenance, a more rapid schedule of equipment replacement, and increased policing by Park Police. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

3. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 3):** Tenants at 60 Elm Street (10 units) have been given notice of their opportunity to purchase their rental property. The property is currently under contract with a sales price of \$710,000. Community organizers, Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo have been in touch with the tenants regarding their rights to purchase. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. **Tenant Capacity Building Program (Wards 3 and 5):** Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo recently met with the tenants residing at 116 Lee Avenue (Ward 3) and 641 Houston Avenue (Ward 5) in regard to suspected plans for the properties to be converted to condominiums. Although official notices of condominium conversions have not yet been served on the tenants residing in either of the buildings, these meetings were arranged to inform the tenants of their rights under the law, once they receive the notice. According to Maryland law, tenants receiving this notice may be required to vacate their apartments following the expiration of a 180 day period. Currently, the tenants at 116 Lee Avenue have received an offer of sale of the property for \$10,000,000. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. **Rental Housing Inspections (City-Wide):** To date, a total of 422 rental housing inspections (328 multi-family facilities and 94 single family rentals) have been inspected by Montgomery County's code enforcement staff. In addition to the required licensing inspections, 254 complaints have been investigated. *(Housing and Community Development)*

Development)

6. **HCD Staffing Changes:** Senior Planner, Rob Inerfeld, has accepted a position with the City of Eugene Oregon's Public Works Department, where he will be assuming responsibility as their new Senior Transportation Planner. Mr. Inerfeld will be leaving the Department in early May. The position has been posted internally with applications accepted through April 19th. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **Laurel Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Ward 1):** Work on approved Laurel Avenue improvements began this week with the removal of a majority of the trees and other vegetation as well as the brick sidewalk. Activities planned for next week include the demolition, stake-out and pouring of the curbs. The City appreciates the efforts the property owner and affected businesses have made to ensure the success of this project. Banners announcing that business are open despite the construction activity are to be installed today. Updates on the status of the project will be included in future S&I reports as well as posted on the City's web site and at the following businesses - Everyday Gourmet, Takoma Laundry, and Summer Delights. Questions or concerns regarding the project should be directed to the Project Manager, Ilona Blanchard at 301.891.7205 or by email at IlonaB@takomagov.org *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Relocation of the Farmers' Market (Ward 1):** The Farmer's Market has been temporarily relocated to Willow Avenue as of this Sunday, April 10 to allow for the construction of planned improvements along Laurel Avenue. The move was made with the cooperation of both the Farmer's Market and neighborhood residents. We want to thank the Bank of America for allowing the use of its parking lot at no charge. Signage announcing the change and directing customers to the new location will be posted today. The Market will return to its Laurel Avenue location once construction has been completed. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. **Tree City, USA:** The City of Takoma Park was awarded Tree City USA for the 21st year in a row from the National Arbor Day Foundation and received an additional Growth Award from the Foundation for the 4th year in a row. *(City Arborist)*

10. **Arbor Day:** Arbor Day will be celebrated tomorrow, April 9, from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the grassy area between the Library and Philadelphia Avenue. Approximately 700 seedlings will be given away and 20 large trees (7-10 feet tall) will be raffled off. Groups participating are: Takoma Park Tree Commission, Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, Takoma Park Hort. Club, Montgomery Co. Master Gardeners, PEPCO, and Friends of Sligo Creek. *(City Arborist)*

11. **Quarterly Report of Tree Removal Applications and Tree Protection Plans:** (attached)
(City Arborist)

12. **Street Restoration (Wards 2, 3 & 6):** The City's street renovation program

resumed March 9th. The work completed so far includes concrete replacement of damaged curb, gutter and driveway aprons. The concrete work has been completed on Larch Avenue (Ward 2), Hopewell Avenue (Ward 6) and the New Hampshire Avenue Service Road from Glenside Ave to Kingwood Ave (Ward 6). The milling is resurfacing is not scheduled yet. The concrete work will continue next week on Garland Avenue from Carroll to Davis (Ward 2), Westmoreland Avenue from Carroll to Walnut (Ward 3) and First Avenue (Ward 3). *(Public Works)*

13. **Police MOU Meeting (Wards 1, 2, 4, 6):** Chief Creamer met with Chief Barber of the M-NCPPC Montgomery (Park Police) regarding Memorandum of Understanding and other issues relating to M-NCPPC parks located in the City. *(Police)*

14. **Crime Report (Ward 6):** Detectives late last week executed search warrants on a residence (outside the City) and a vehicle, while investigating an incident relating to a police impersonator. A man has been arrested on charges of robbery, false imprisonment, and 2nd degree assault related to the Feb. 26 incident in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Investigation continues in collaboration with the Montgomery and Prince George's County police. *(Police)*

15. **Officers in Training:** Lt. Cipperly and two sergeants attended a three-day training on Incident Command/Unified Management in WMD/Terrorism events sponsored by the Response to Emergencies and Disasters Institute. (Details provided last week.) Carol Bannerman attended the quarterly meeting of the Maryland Police Planners organization and made a presentation on directives related to implementing the Maryland Safe Haven (relinquishment of newborns) law. *(Police)*

16. **On the Beat (All Wards):** Among traffic details in the past week were Carroll/Lincoln and University Blvd. In more than 100 traffic stops, citations were issued in 85 events. With youth, Ofc. Conrad and Smith of the COP Team conducted a tour of the station with a local Girl Scouts of America Troop # 5831(Brownies). Chief Creamer visited two Takoma Park Elementary School first grade classes in connection with a unit on clothing and how different jobs need different attire. *(Police)*

17. **Position Transfers:** The selection process for Vice/Narcotics/Intelligence (VNI) and the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Investigator positions has concluded. As a result the following selections were made: for CID Investigator: Pfc. Cynthia Conrad and for VNI: Corporal Tyrone Collington and Corporal Richard Cannatella. As previously mentioned, transfers into these positions will not take place until such time as staffing levels permit. Appropriate training, however, will be considered as it becomes available. *(Police)*

18. **Sad News in the Force:** Carrie Spicer, a longtime resident of Wildwood Avenue, passed away this week in Richmond. Mrs. Spicer was a police department volunteer for 11 years, working eight hours a day, four or five days a week in administrative projects. She celebrated her 100th birthday last June. *(Police)*

Quarterly Report of Tree Removal Applications and Tree Protection Plans	
Applications Received	76
Trees Receiving Waivers	19
Trees Receiving Emergency Waivers	6
Trees Receiving Permits	42
Trees Denied	9
Tree Protection Plans Processed	8

(City Arborist)